Improving facilities at Nagpur Railway Station

4396. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has drawn a strategy to ease the traffic congestion at Nagpur Railway Station:

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposed to restart work on the pending Master Plan, to improve facilities at Nagpur Railway Station;

(d) if so. the details thereof: and

(e) the funds allocated for this purpose during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Railways have taken up the work of remodelling of Nagpur yard for improvement of operating facilities at the station at a cost of Rs. 902.86 lakhs. This work provides for extension of existing platforms to accommodate longer trains, additional washing cum maintenance sidings, extension of shunting neck and signalling arrangements on goods line for through movement of freight trains.

A Master Plan for the provision of improved passenger amenities at a Nagpur station has been implemented. At this station, facilities for smooth flow and easy movement of passengers already exist. Therefore, the issues of restarting the work on pending Master Plan or allocation of funds for the purpose do not arise.

Enhancement of Licence Fee for Railway Catering/Vending Contractors

4397. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is as fact that the business and the earnings of catering/ vending contractors at big and small railway stations are equal;

(b) if not, what the reasons for enhancement of licence fee from three per cent to twelve per cent, in the case of small stations as well;

(c) whether it is a fact that before issuing instructions for enhancement of licence fee from three per cent to twelve per cent, all relevant factors were taken into consideration; and

(d) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Bigger stations have higher turnover than smaller stations.

(b) to (d) Licence fees, linked with sales turnover, varies from station to station, depending on the sale turnover of the station. The main objective to link licence fee with sales turnover, was to rationalise different levies from catering/ vending contractors such as conservancy charges, rental for building and vendor's fee, 3 to 4% of sale turnover, etc. as part of licence fee, which were separately being recovered prior to this policy.

Poor catering in trains between New Delhi and Bilaspur

4398. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament and other VIPs have made complaints in respect of poor catering service in trains running between Hazrat Nizamuddin/ New Delhi and Bilaspur;

(b) if so. the action taken against the catering units/persons responsible for the poor catering services;

(c) whether DRM and other officials have made any surprise checking in these trains; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) One complaint was received in 1998 in this regard and a fine of Rs. 3000/- has been imposed on the licensee. Intensive monitoring is being done at different levels including divisonai officers. Suitable punitive action is taken wherever required.

Responsibility of G.Ms for Rail Safety Lapses

4399. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Zonal Railway General Managers would be made answerable for rail safety lapses;